UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ecological Site Description

Site name: AQUATIC LOWLAND
Site number: R-272ZY010PR
Major Land Resource Area: 272 Humid Coastal Plains
Interstate correlation: NONE

Physiographic features: Elevation of this site ranges from sea level to 700m rising gradually from the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean to the hilly karst area to the south. The area is divided in two distinct zones; the flat alluvial plains and terraces along the coast and the irregular features of the karst limestone inland.

Climatic features
Frost-free period: 365 DAYS
Freeze-free period: 365 DAYS
Mean annual precipitation: 54 INCHES
Mean annual air temperature: 78ºF
Mean annual soil temperature:
Monthly moisture and temperature distribution:

	Mean Precipitation (inches)	**Percent Precipitation (%)**	**Mean Temperature (ºF)**
January	4.42	8.18	75
February	2.69	4.98	74
March	2.46	4.55	75
April	4.45	8.24	77
May	5.10	9.44	79
June	4.29	7.94	80
July	3.75	6.94	80
August	4.10	7.59	81
September	4.85	8.98	80
October	5.03	9.31	80
November	6.13	11.35	78
December	6.80	12.59	76
Mean annual	**54**		**78ºF**

Other climatic features: A rainy season prevails from July to November and a pronounced dry season occurs during the remainder of the year. Hurricanes are most

likely to occur August through November, and are characterized by strong winds and torrential rains.

Associated water features: Surface and ground water are plentiful. Surface water consists of runoff from rainfall in the humid uplands.

Elevation Aspect: 25 to 150 ft.

Percent Slope: 0 to 2

Soils: Soils of this site are deep, poorly drained, formed in residuum of highly decomposed plant tissue and are on nearly level bottomlands, and in depressions on the flood plains of the coastal lowlands and floodplains.

Major Soil Taxonomic Units correlated to this site include:

Garrochales, Ga
Hydraquents, Hd
Martin Peña, Mp
Palmar, Pa
Piñones, Pn
Saladar, Sm
Tiburones, Tb
Vigia Muck, Vg
Wet Alluvial Lands, Wa

Plant communities: This site consists primarily of decumbent grasses and grasslike in nearly pure stands. Some introduced species are adapted to the site. These highly adaptable species include guinea, star, pangola and paragrass. They exist in varying levels of dominance due to past or existing grazing pressure. **The recent identification of Melaleuca may represent a major invasive introduction, that may alter significantly this community.**

Major plant species composition: Grasses and grasslike constitute about 98% of the vegetative composition, forbs make up the remaining 2%.

GRASSES AND GRASSLIKES

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For Group
BLIN2	Yerbita	1			
BRMO	Snailgrass	1			
ECPO3	River grass	1			
ELIN2	Junco de parejos	1			
ERPO3	Caribgrass	1			
HYAM2	Trumpet grass	1			
MAJA3	Serrucho	1			

PARE9	Sprawling panicum	1			
SALA	Arrowleaf	1			
SAST	Streambank millet	1			
TYDO	Southern cattail	1			

FORBS

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
CAGL13	Maraca	2			
COES	Malanga	2			
DISE7	Rabano	2			

Shrubs and Trees

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
MELA	Malaleuca	4			

Ground Cover and Structure

	Height Above the Ground											
	Not applicable		6 to 12 inches		12 to 24 inches		24 to 60 inches		60 to 80 inches		180 to 240 inches	
	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover
Trees												
Shrubs												
Grasses and grasslikes					15	80						
Forbs			1	10								
Cryptogams												
Coarse fragments												
Bare ground												
Litter												

Transition Pathways: Generally native climax species are not replaced due to limited grazing access and wetness. If grazing occurs, trompetilla and yerba acuática may be replaced by less palatable species such as cyperus and venezolana.

Total annual production: 16500 lbs./acre

Plant Growth Curves:

Growth curve number: PR001
Growth curve name: PR PLANT GROWTH CURVE
Growth curve description: Native and naturalized grasslands.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	5	4	7	12	10	9	10	11	10	9	7

Animal Community:

This site is important for several wildlife species. Major species using the site include:

Adelaide's warbler
American oysterchatcher
American redstart
Antillian mango
Bananaquit
Black rail
Blackfaced grassquit
Cattle egret
Caiman
Eleutherodactylus spp.
Grasshoper sparrow
Greater antillian grackle
Grey kingbird
Key West quail dove
Killdeer
Lesser antillian pewee
Lesser golder plover
Loggerhead kingbird
Northern bobwhite
Northern parula
Pearly eyed thrasher
Puertorican bullfinch
Puertorican flycatcher
Puertorican lizard cukoo
Puertorican vitreo
Puertorican woodpecker
Red jungle fowl
Ruddy turnstone
Sanderling
Smooth billed ani
West india whistling duck
White rumped sandpiper
Yellow faced grassquit

Zenaida dove

Associated sites:

Similar sites
Plant communities, production, and vigor of this site is not similar enough to other sites in the region to cause a problem or concern.

Site documentation

Author: M. Montes, E. Más
Revised: 05/2002, E. Más, J. Lugo, S. Ríos

Supporting data for site development: Supporting data include clipping studies, and historical writing of the area. More documentation and study are needed to fully understand this site and the transitions that occur.

Sampling techniques
SCS-Range 417

Type locality: Caño Tiburones area

Field Offices: Arecibo, Bayamón, Corozal

References:

USDA, NRCS. 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook.

USDA, SCS. Soil Survey's

Site Approval:
This site has been reviewed and approved for use:

USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist Date